



Issue 15

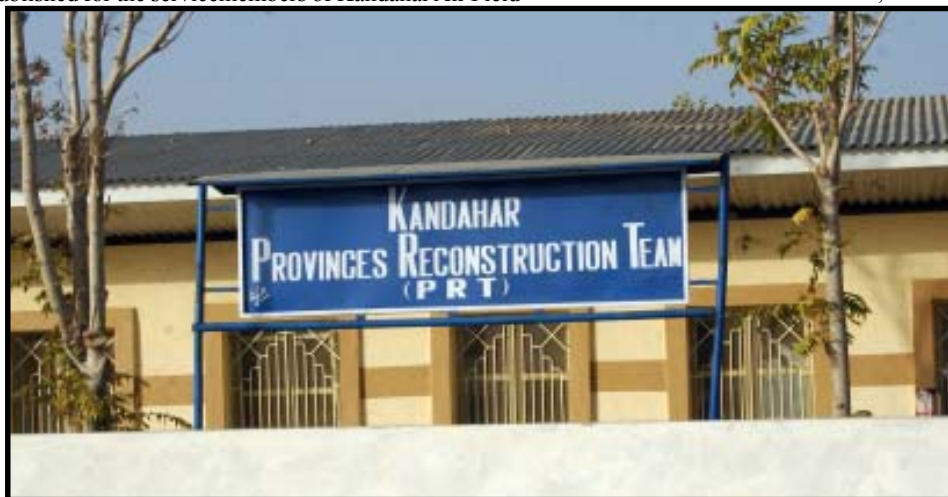
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Civil Affairs to Open Reconstruction sight

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Dave S. Thompson
211th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

Kandahar, Afghanistan—A wise man once said that for change to take place, one has to want change. However, for a people so crippled by oppression and poverty, and uncertain of whom to follow and whom to fear, change is not so easy to achieve. In an often frustrating effort to establish that they are here to help, the members of the 321st Civil Affairs Battalion from San Antonio,



New PRT site in Kandahar City

TX, are working fervently to win the hearts and minds of the people in this south-eastern Afghan city.

Dubbed the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force (CJCMOTF), their mission is to extend the positive aspects of the legitimate government of Afghanistan into the southern region by working with the local governor to develop the infrastructure of the area. But, given the staggering imbalance between governmental requirements and the

available resources, progress is slow in coming. Add to that the numerous issues of instability throughout the country, and the task is made even more difficult.

Lt. Col. Robert Duffy, commander of the unit, says that progress is being made however, and he and his team are diligent in their efforts to bring about change. Duffy is spearheading a project to move his operations from the U.S. military ————— See PRT pg. 3



Spc. Elijah Spencer enjoys the view of Doha, Qatar

R&R; Medicine for the War Weary Soul

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Dave S. Thompson
211th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

As the war on terrorism continues in the mountains, valleys and cities of Afghanistan, wary troops look forward to a break in the action and an opportunity to get away from it all, if only for a little while. Leaders at all levels recognize the importance of giving their troops a breather, thus the Rest and Relaxation program (R&R) was put in place.

Soldiers fighting the wars in Af-

ghanistan and Iraq, converge daily on the Middle Eastern country of Qatar by the hundreds. Touted as one of the best kept secrets in the region, the ultra-modern city of Doha plays host to the American Warriors in grand style.

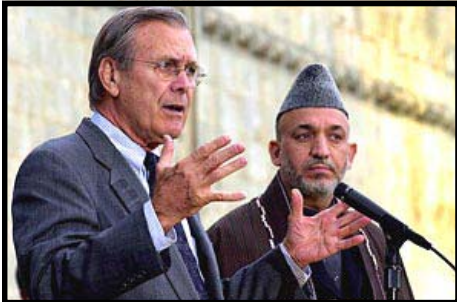
"As soon as I got off the plane it was like stepping back into civilization," said Spc. Elijah Spencer, a Journalist arriving from Kandahar Air Field (KAF), Afghanistan. "I can breathe freely without ingesting sand and dust into my lungs. This is great!" Spencer spends a good

————— See R&R pg. 11

From the Top

Rumsfeld Surveys Recovery in

Afghanistan



MAZAR-e-SHARIF, Afghanistan

— Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld met with the two main warlords of northern Afghanistan on Thursday and said he is satisfied that they have begun disarming — if more slowly than some had hoped.

Rumsfeld met with Abdul Rashid Dostum and Atta Mohammed, whose armies remain in conflict, at a dusty compound used by the British army as headquarters for a civil-military reconstruction project where they are working to improve security and calm tensions between rival factions.

Afterward, at a joint news conference, Rumsfeld said he told Dostum and Mohammed that the United States thinks their disarmament is “an important step for this country.”

He said “their response was certainly positive and appropriate.”

Rumsfeld also met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Karzai said the country was irretrievably committed to developing democracy. “The Taliban ... will not be able to disrupt this process.”

He also said the problem of regional warlords “is being tackled aggressively.”

About two hours after the meeting, a

rocket exploded in a field about 300 yards from the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.

A U.S. military official said Rumsfeld had safely left the country to continue his tour of Central Asia. No one was injured in the explosion, which one official blamed on the Taliban or their ally, renegade warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

It was not immediately known whether Rumsfeld was still in Afghanistan when the blast occurred.

On disarmament, the British Army has formed a “provincial reconstruction team” designed to accelerate the process while enabling humanitarian organizations to work in areas wracked by civil strife.

Rumsfeld had arrived in a U.S. Air Force C-17 cargo plane and was driven to the headquarters of British Col. Dickie Davis, who heads the British provincial reconstruction team.

Rumsfeld was briefed on the work being done and was meeting later with the governor of Balkh province, Habibullah, before sitting down with the two warlords.

During Thursday’s visit, Rumsfeld also was to meet with U.S. troops.

In addition to the work U.S. and allied combat forces are undertaking to hunt down remnants of the Taliban regime in eastern Afghanistan, there is a growing focus on the reconstruction teams, which use a combination of civilian experts and military security to jump-start reconstruction in various areas outside Kabul.



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Coalition Task Force

Warrior Commander:

Col. William B. Garrett III

Coalition Task Force Warrior

Command Sgt. Maj.

Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe

10th Mountain Brigade PAO:

Capt. Kevin K. Dasher

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Commander:

Capt. Kevin K. Dasher

NCOIC:

Staff Sgt. Dave S. Thompson

Editor/Layout:

SpC. C. Elijah Spencer

Journalist / Photojournalist / Graphics:

SpC. Zia Ul Haq, SpC. Timothy S. Melzow

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Rumsfeld was asked after his meeting with the warlords whether he was concerned about a resurgence of the Taliban in southeastern Afghanistan. “It’s no great surprise,” he said. “Those who have been defeated and removed would like to come back. That’s always been the case. But they will not have that opportunity.”

If U.S. troops detect Taliban or al-Qaida assembling in more than “ones and twos,” Rumsfeld said, “they’ll be killed or captured.”

Earlier this week at NATO meetings in Belgium, Rumsfeld said more of the teams would be formed by allied countries in the months ahead.

————— see RUMSFELD pg. 3

“Weekly Quote”

“Sure I am this day we are masters of our fate, that the task which has been set before us is not above our strength; that its pangs and toils are not beyond our endurance. As long as we have faith in our own cause and an unconquerable will to win, victory will not be denied us.”

- *Winston Churchill*

RUMSFELD from pg.2

The United States has about 10,000 soldiers in Afghanistan.

It was Rumsfeld's first visit to Mazar-e-Sharif, the principal city in the northern part of the country. Mazar is where the tide turned against the Taliban in November 2001 as U.S. forces leveraged a linkage with the opposition northern alliance to defeat the radical Muslim rulers.

In October, clashes between Dostum and Mohammed's forces reportedly left dozens of civilians dead. Karzai then sent Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali

and enlisted the help of British peacekeepers and the United Nations to bring the warlords into line.

The warlords agreed that a battalion from the new Afghan national army would guard surrendered weapons until the Ministry of Defense decides what to do with them.

Under a separate U.N.-sponsored, disarmament program, hundreds of soldiers have handed in guns, rockets and tanks in Kunduz, another northern city, and at Gardez near the Pakistani border.

Eventually, the Ministry of Defense and its sponsors hope to disarm and de-commission 100,000 Afghan militia members as it creates the new army and national police. So far, the new forces have only 6,000 members.

Karzai's government has little control outside the capital. Much of the country is controlled by warlords. In recent months, resurgent Taliban rebels have stepped up attacks in the south and east. Many officials believe that national elections scheduled for June will have to be postponed because of the security situation.

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compound at Kandahar Air Field to Kandahar City proper, in an effort to better interface with residents of the community. Called the Provincial Reconstruction Team or PRT, the complex will be used as a base to provide assistance to the impoverished people in the area. To help stimulate the economy, the Colonel hired local contractors to renovate the sprawling compound that was once a fruit cannery. He stated that by moving into an existing compound, he was able to spend 40% less than what was budgeted for the project.

“We are here to help the government of Afghanistan achieve stability and focus reconstruction efforts in this region,” Duffy said. “The PRT will be accessible to the locals here and we will work to improve their security, their health, education, economy, agriculture, and the infrastructure.”

Since arriving in Kandahar in early July, the 321st CA team has nominated and started over 2.6 million dollars worth of projects throughout the region; everything from schools and clinics to wells, bridges, and road improvements. Over half a million dollars worth of those

projects have been completed.

Duffy says the complex is designed to house one hundred twenty coalition service members and seventy five Afghan National Army soldiers comfortably. He added that the facility has the capacity to hold twice that number for short periods. The PRT is scheduled for a grand opening ceremony on 11 December 2003.

In addition to its close proximity



Kandahar PRT site under construction

to Kandahar's governor, the central location of the PRT in the city will allow Civil Affairs to work more closely with Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) here to assist in Afghanistan's reconstruction efforts, and will also serve to attract other NGO involvement.

On any given day, LTC Duffy and

his crew can be seen driving around town assessing the needs of villagers, checking on the progress of a new school, or handing out blankets and jackets to those in need; all in an effort to improve the lives of the people of Afghanistan. The PRT will be a welcome and much needed addition to the city of Kandahar. Most of its citizens are happy to see the Americans move in. Perhaps someday all Afghans will realize that the members of CJCMOTF are indeed the good guys, and they are here to help.

“The PRT is scheduled for a grand opening ceremony on 11 December 2003.”

WORLD NEWS



U.S.: Iraqi Insurgents Show Coordination

By JIM KRANE

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The Iraqi insurgency in Baghdad appears to have a central leadership that finances attacks in the capital and gives broad orders to eight to 12 rebel bands - some with as many as 100 guerrillas, U.S. Army generals said.

Decisions on individual attacks against U.S. occupation forces in the capital, however, are left up to the men who carry them out, Brig. Gen. Martin Dempsey said Monday.

There is still no sign of a military-style command structure in the city or in Iraq as a whole, Dempsey told a group of reporters in an unusually detailed account of the Iraqi insurgency.

"I'm increasingly of the belief that there's central financial control and central communications," said Dempsey, who commands the Army's 1st Armored Division, which controls Baghdad and the surrounding region.

The division's picture of the insurgency has grown clearer as its intelligence gathering has improved, he said. Last month, the Army rounded up what Dempsey believes is one of the guerrilla cells blamed for attacks in Baghdad, including the Oct. 26 rocket strike on the Al-Rasheed Hotel that occurred during the stay of Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz.

Although Dempsey spoke about the Baghdad operation, an ambush Sunday in the town of Samarra north of the capital also showed heightened coordination. U.S. forces successfully routed a group of about 50 fighters who laid in wait at banks and ambushed two American convoys carrying Iraqi currency, killing dozens of Iraqis.

In Baghdad, rebel attacks have come in waves that Dempsey said appear to start when an order is given. The Iraqi capital has been quiet in recent weeks, after a series of attacks in early November. Dempsey said he believes the lull stems from a leader's ordering guerrillas to lie low during the Army's current offensive, "Operation Iron Hammer."

A yet-unidentified central leadership appears to give guerrilla cells broad orders such as, "Go attack the coalition," Dempsey said.

He said he believes the manner of attack is left up to the individual cells, as long as the efforts disrupt and discredit the U.S.-led coalition and any progress it has made.

"There's clearly some central communications," he said.

The insurgency's members and leaders remain unclear - even to U.S. intelligence and military officials. American officials have said anti-coalition guerrillas showed evidence of regional control, but little has been made public about those networks, or to indicate individual bands were linked in the way Dempsey described.

A look at the rebel movement north of Baghdad appears in a November report from Anthony Cordesman, an Iraq expert with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. Some 70 percent to 80 percent of insurgents captured by the 4th Infantry Division are paid attackers, mostly criminal elements, Cordesman said he learned in an interview with the 4th ID's leadership.

The 1st Armored Division has been tracking Baghdad insurgents using a computer database that catalogs information on

rebels and diagrams links among insurgents, Dempsey said. The database has proven useful in identifying insurgent groups forming in the city's 88 neighborhoods.

Later this week, the division will embark on an anti-smuggling and corruption drive aimed at breaking financial links to the capital's insurgent groups. The operation, dubbed "Operation Iron Justice," aims at smugglers of gasoline, cooking fuel and other items, Dempsey said.

"Our human intelligence suggests a link between price gouging and the financing of these networks," he said. "I can't say for sure it exists. But I have enough to know it's worth addressing."

Rebel bands operating in Baghdad include large cells of 80 to 100 members, and smaller groups of 10 to 20 fighters, said Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling, also of the 1st Armored Division, who spoke to reporters along with Dempsey.

One of those cells - believed responsible for the Al-Rasheed Hotel attack - has been broken up, with 28 members captured in raids Nov. 6.

FBI agents helped track the group by examining welding techniques used to build the makeshift rocket launcher and the blue paint used to camouflage it, Dempsey said. The FBI found the paint was the same as that used on the front gate of a man in custody, Hertling said.

The 1st Armored's Second Brigade Combat Team raided a dozen or so villas and seized the suspects, along with rockets and other munitions, computers, cash and a rocket manual. Other suspects in the hotel attack have been rounded up in other raids.

Since those raids, the northwest suburb where the group operated, Abu Ghraib, has been quiet, Hertling said, and anti-American sermons in local mosques have been toned down.

Another organization calling itself Mohammed's Army, or Jaish Mohammed, — see **INSURGENTS** pg. 5

WORLD NEWS

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appears to be an umbrella group for former intelligence agents, army and security officials, and Baath Party members, Dempsey said.

Membership in Baghdad's insurgent groups appears to be fueled by Sunni Muslims who had been favored under Saddam Hussein's regime and who have lost privileges since his ouster. Sunnis worry their lives will worsen if the Shiite Muslim majority gains power in elections, Dempsey said.

"They've lost a lot and they want to regain power," Hertling said.

The cells are made up of local residents, but foreigners may be used at times, perhaps in suicide bombings, Hertling said.

"We believe there's potential for a marriage of convenience," he said. "When former regime loyalists want to do a specific attack, they will recruit foreign fighters to do that attack."

Baghdad's guerrilla strongholds include Azamiyah, a Baath Party residential zone where Saddam was last seen in public; the southern neighborhoods favored by Sunni fundamentalists; and Abu Ghraib, where the destruction of major businesses left men jobless and angry, Hertling said.

"They're disenfranchised," he said. "You've got people taking advantage of that."



Northeast Hit With Nearly 2 Feet of Snow

By BIPASHA RAY

Associated Press Writer

The Northeast's first major snowstorm of the season grounded airliners, iced highways and sidewalks and kept some would-be holiday shoppers home as forecasters warned of coastal floods and power outages Sunday. At least 10 deaths were linked to the storm.

Hundreds of snow plow crews worked to clear the streets of Boston, which already had 15 inches of snow on the ground Sunday morning and expected a weekend total of up to 20 inches. Some surrounding areas had reported 23 inches by Sunday morning.

Nearly 3 feet of snow fell in some mountainous areas of western Maine, and up to 2 feet fell in eastern New York's Rensselaer County. Clarksburg, Pa., measured 15 inches, and up to 19 inches fell on New York's Long Island.

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino urged residents to obey snow emergency parking rules by not parking on busy streets or near intersections, and warned people they faced a \$250 fine if they shoveled snow onto city streets. But since the storm struck on a weekend, plow drivers did not have to face streets clogged by commuters.

Temperatures forecast only in the upper 20s, with a wind chill of zero to 10 degrees, prompted the New England Patriots to bend the rules and lift a security-based ban on blankets, encouraging fans to bring them to keep warm during

Sunday's game against the Miami Dolphins.

The chilly air dragged extended south all the way to Florida, where Tallahassee bottomed out at 26 degrees early Sunday and the Panhandle city of Crestview reached 29.

The National Weather Service issued coastal flood warnings Sunday for Massachusetts and said strong wind and the additional snowfall could cause power outages.

Power companies reported about 8,000 power outages Sunday morning along Massachusetts' North and South shores, and forecasters warned coastal homes might not be safe.

"The wind is coming off the water and some high seas," meteorologist Alan Dunham said. "Between the tides themselves, the size of waves and the wind, there will be some flooding, but nothing major."

In Maine, where the weather service issued a blizzard warning, forecasters expected wind speeds of 30 to 40 mph and limited visibility.

At major airports in the Northeast, travelers slept on cots after airlines canceled hundreds of flights Saturday while workers cleared the runways.

Boston's Logan International Airport canceled almost half of its 800 scheduled incoming and outgoing flights Saturday. Hundreds more were canceled at New York City area airports.

Bradley International Airport in Connecticut still had delays Sunday, due partly to problems at the bigger airports in the Northeast.

"It's almost over. It will take a day or two to get back to normal," said Rollin Tebbetts, Bradley's operations manager.

The storm was blamed for one traffic death in Pennsylvania, one in Connecticut, one

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NEWS cont.

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in upstate New York and two each in New Jersey, Vermont and Virginia. A 25-year-old man died in Rhode Island when the inner tube he was riding in, towed behind a truck, hit a utility pole.

While many holiday shoppers took a break Saturday, some braved the harsh conditions, especially in New York City where they could take subways or buses.

"People are coming into this area to see the tree or see the shows," said Felix Olivo, manager of the Sharper Image in New York City's Rockefeller Center. "It could have been better if it weren't snowing, but business wasn't hurt in any way by the storm."

But out in the suburbs where shoppers must drive to their destinations, business was down at a Costco Wholesale in New Jersey's Union Township, which got 15 inches of snow.

"People are still making it out, although not in what we would expect," store sales auditor Pat Jordan said of the first Saturday in December.

Three NATO Countries Pledge More Troops for Afghanistan

By John D. Banusiewicz
American Forces Press Service

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Dec. 1, 2003 — Three NATO countries agreed today to send more troops to Afghanistan in the first morning of meetings among the alliance's defense ministers here.

Senior U.S. officials said that because the countries' parliaments must first formalize the commitments, no announcement on the identity of the countries and their specific pledges was likely to occur during the two-day ministerial conference.

The first meeting of the day brought the defense ministers together with NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson. The

meeting included what one official called "a good discussion of Afghanistan," as well as the importance of the alliance having "usable" forces organized and equipped to meet 21st-century threats.

Robertson has advocated expansion of NATO's contributions in Afghanistan beyond the capital city of Kabul with more provincial reconstruction teams operating in the country. Eventually, U.S. officials said, NATO might absorb U.S. Central Command's Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. They cautioned, however, that such a result would be a long way down the road if it were to happen at all, and the notion is in only the earliest stages of thought and discussion.

The meeting with Robertson also included preparation for the alliance's next summit meeting, scheduled for May in Istanbul, and progress in NATO's efforts to streamline its command structure as it brings down its total number of commands from 20 to 11. As NATO's transformation continues, one official said, the alliance has seen more changes in the last two years than it had seen in the previous decade.

NATO's Nuclear Planning Committee met later in the morning, as the ministers discussed concern over the proliferation of nuclear weapons, most notably in North Korea and Iran. One official said no one in the meeting challenged the U.S. view that Iran's claim of needing nuclear power is a "thin and implausible" cover story for a nuclear weapons program.

Officials to Begin Talks On Moving U.S. Military Bases

WASHINGTON — A major shift of American troops and military bases will be the topic next week as officials from the Pentagon and State Department discuss plans with counterparts in Europe.

Undersecretary of Defense Douglas Feith said on Wednesday that he and Undersecretary of State Marc Grossman

will visit 13 countries to outline U.S. ideas for repositioning military forces to better respond to future threats, including any that might be posed as China, India and other nations gain enough military power in coming years to alter the strategic balance around the world.

Feith also said the upcoming base alignment would be a part of a larger effort to ensure that a potential trouble spot does not fall in a "seam" between U.S. military regional commands.

"One of the challenges of the Pentagon leadership is to try to make sure that those lines of division among the areas of responsibility of the combatant commanders don't create strategic problems for us, don't create gaps," Feith said in a speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank in Washington.

The lines that divide the world among various U.S. military commands separate India from Pakistan, Israel from most of its neighbors, and Turkey from Iraq — examples Feith said need fixing.

Last week, President Bush said talks would begin with allies about changing where U.S. troops are based overseas. Among the nations atop the list for shifts are Germany, South Korea and Japan, homes to the largest permanent overseas deployments of U.S. forces. "There will be changes in Germany, as there will be changes all over the world," Feith said.

Feith cited two examples of impending moves. Removal of the U.S. Air Expeditionary Wing from Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia "should help improve our relations with the Saudis," he said.

And moving U.S. forces in South Korea from the densely populated capital, Seoul, to areas farther south "will help remedy various problems with the Korean public, while serving other important military purposes as well," he said.



SPORTS



Oklahoma Loss Clouds Bowl Bids; USC No. 1

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Football Writer

And just like that, there was no shoo-in for Sugar Bowl. Wins by Southern California and LSU and a loss by Oklahoma set up a chaotic finish in the Bowl Championship Series that is sure to leave one team crying foul when the national championship matchup is set Sunday.

USC rose to No. 1 in The Associated Press college football final regular-season poll on Sunday, followed by LSU and Oklahoma.

Despite the 35-7 loss to No. 8 Kansas State in the Big 12 title game Saturday night, the top-ranked Sooners (12-1) had such a big lead in the BCS standings that experts still think they'll be in New Orleans on Jan. 4 - whether they deserve it or not.

"I'm not going to sit here and lobby for any bowl," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said. "We just got whipped."

The race to be their opponent figures to be one of the closest in the six-year history of the BCS, with No. 2 LSU (12-1) poised to cut into USC's 1.53-point lead after beating fifth-ranked Georgia 34-13 in the SEC title game.

The second-ranked Trojans (11-1) won their season finale, 52-28 over Oregon State - a less impressive opponent. USC could still be shut out of the Sugar Bowl because of the BCS computers, despite becoming No. 1 in the AP poll.

"We deserve to go. We're 11-1 and we've

been playing well the last couple of months," USC quarterback Matt Leinart said. "I think we've done as much as we can do. But it's not in our hands."

In that scenario, the Trojans would play No. 4 Michigan in the Rose Bowl but could still win a share of the national championship. While AP voters can pick any team No. 1, the USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll automatically gives its top spot to the winner of the BCS title game.

The final BCS standings will be released Sunday, determining which two teams will play in New Orleans for the national championship on Jan. 4.

While the BCS was started in 1998 to pit the top two teams in the country against each other in a bowl game, it has often failed to do it.

In 2000, Florida State edged Miami for No. 2 despite losing to the Hurricanes in the regular season and the following year Nebraska made it to the title game despite failing to win the Big 12 North and losing its season finale 62-36 to Colorado.

Oklahoma also will likely play for the national championship despite failing to win its conference.

The BCS formula uses the AP and coaches polls, seven computer rankings, strength of schedule, losses and a bonus-point system for quality wins.

USC had the edge over LSU in four of the seven computers heading into the week, but the quality win by LSU could alter that. The Colley Matrix computer - the only one to publicize its system - will have LSU second and USC third because Syracuse beat Notre Dame 38-12.

The Tigers need to have the edge in six of the computers to beat out the Trojans, and hope Georgia remains in the BCS top 10, according to BCS expert Jerry Palm.

"It may not be a perfect system. It may not work in our favor," Tigers coach Nick Saban said. "But I'd like to see us have the opportunity to play for a national cham-

pionship. I think our team deserves that. We've taken care of the business we could take care of."

LSU will be hurt by losing its 0.4-point quality-win bonus after beating Georgia for the second time this season. The BCS only counts one win against a team for that component and the Bulldogs are sure to drop following their third loss. If Georgia falls below 10th, LSU will get no bonus.

The BCS will also release the matchups Sunday for the three other major bowls. Michigan (Big Ten), Florida State (ACC) and Miami (Big East) join USC (Pac-10), Kansas State (Big 12) and LSU (SEC) as the automatic qualifiers.

Oklahoma will get one of the two at-large bids, with Ohio State and Tennessee fighting for the second. Texas gets left out because no conference can have three BCS teams and Kansas State and Oklahoma will take the Big 12's spots.

The possible matchups for the other BCS games have Ohio State playing Miami in the Orange Bowl, Michigan facing USC, Florida State or LSU in the Rose, and Kansas State playing LSU or Florida State in the Fiesta.

USC No. 1 in Poll, Clouding Bowl Picture

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Football Writer

A chaotic weekend provided a new No. 1 team in college football. Southern California took over the top spot in The Associated Press poll for the first time in 22 years Sunday following Oklahoma's shocking 35-7 loss to Kansas State.

Because the Trojans might not end up in the BCS designated title game at the Sugar Bowl, there is a chance there will be a split national championship.

The Sooners (12-1) fell to third after holding the top spot since the preseason.

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SPORTS Continued

USC from pg. 7

USC (11-1) moved up from second after beating Oregon State 52-28 and LSU (12-1) gained a spot from third after defeating Georgia 34-13 in the SEC title game Saturday night. The Trojans haven't been No. 1 since October 1981.

The Trojans received 42 first-place votes in balloting by the panel of sports writers and broadcasters Sunday. LSU got 21 and Oklahoma received the final two.

USC had 1,595 points, followed by LSU with 1,580 and Oklahoma with 1,491.

The Sooners had hoped to join Florida State in 1999 as the only teams to go wire-to-wire since the advent of the pre-season poll in 1950. Oklahoma also would have broken a tie with Notre Dame for the most No. 1 rankings with a win. Both schools have 95 top rankings.



Michigan remained fourth, followed by Texas, Tennessee, Ohio State, Kansas State, Florida State and Miami.

The USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll had the same top five teams as the AP.

Kansas State made the biggest jump in the final regular season poll, gaining five spots from 13th. Georgia had the largest

fall, dropping from fifth to 11th.

Purdue was next, followed by Iowa, Miami of Ohio, Washington State, Mississippi, Florida, Boise State, TCU and West Virginia.

Oklahoma State, Nebraska, Maryland, Minnesota and Utah round out the poll.

Bowling Green was the only team to drop out of the poll this week, falling from 20th after a 49-27 loss to Miami of Ohio in the Mid-American Conference championship game. Utah took the Falcons' place in the rankings.

The Big 12, SEC and Big Ten have five teams apiece in the poll, followed by two each for the Big East, Pac-10 and ACC.

Oklahoma Will Play LSU in Sugar Bowl

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Football Writer

College football fans, get ready to crown not just one, but possibly two national champions. And get ready for a new round of controversy.

That's because the computer rankings had Oklahoma as the country's top team Sunday while the human poll voters picked Southern California.

It's exactly what the Bowl Championship Series was designed to avoid, with the prospect of a split title certain to renew cries for a playoff.

"I don't think anyone will know who the legitimate

national champion is unless all three teams in consideration get the opportunity to play one another," LSU coach Nick Saban said.

Despite getting walloped by Kansas State 35-7 on Saturday night, Oklahoma will take its 12-1 record to the Sugar Bowl against LSU, which won the Southeastern Conference championship by beating Georgia 34-13.

The winner in New Orleans on Jan. 4 automatically captures the coaches' title under the BCS format.

USC, which finished third in the BCS rankings, could win The Associated

Press championship by beating No. 4 Michigan in the Rose Bowl.

"I'm not an expert on this, but if the No. 1 team at the end of the regular season wins its bowl game, how are they not the No. 1 team outright?" USC receiver Mike Williams asked. "But we don't play LSU or we don't play Oklahoma, so you'll never know."

The No. 1 team in the AP poll has never dropped after winning its bowl game.

When the BCS contract expires after the 2005 season, a one-game championship might be instituted after the bowls.

That would be too late to fix this year's mess.

"The No. 1 team is not playing in the game that they're billing as the championship game," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "Something didn't come out right."

In the final BCS standings, Oklahoma was first with 5.11 points based on its top spot in five of the seven computers, the 11th-toughest schedule and a quality win over Texas. The Sooners were third in both polls.

"At the end of the year, we're No. 1 in the system," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said. "There's nothing to apologize for."

HEADLINERS

Stylist's Hair Catches Fire at Gas Pump

ALBANY, Ga. (AP) — A hair stylist was pumping gas into her car when her hair burst into flames.

"That scared me to death," said stylist Traci Marshall.

The fire was probably caused by static electricity from Marshall's hair rubbing against her clothes, said her husband, Camilla firefighter Lt. Bill Marshall.

The static electricity apparently mixed with gas fumes and ignited the fire Sunday.

"I started beating my hair to get out the fire and saw flames coming out of the gas tank," she said.

A man with a fire extinguisher put out the blaze.

Traci Marshall had to cut her hair and get her truck repaired.

Bill Marshall advised people to ground themselves before pumping gas by touching the metal of their cars.

"Once you get out of your vehicle, don't get back into the vehicle until you are through," he said.

Officials also remind people to turn off cell phones and pagers when pumping gas because those devices can also spark explosions.

Woman Sentenced for High-Speed Nursing

RAVENNA, Ohio (AP) — A woman who nursed her infant while driving 65 mph on the Ohio Turnpike was sentenced to three months of house arrest for violating child-restraint laws.

Catherine Nicole Donkers, 29, was also fined \$300 Thursday. The judge delayed the sentence for one month so she can pursue her appeal.

Donkers was found guilty in August of three traffic-related charges. She was found innocent of child endangering.

Donkers said her husband ordered her by cell phone to breast-feed their 7-month-old daughter to save time while she drove on the turnpike May 8. Police stopped Donkers after a trucker who saw her holding the baby on her lap called 911.

Donkers testified she did nothing wrong because the couple's religious beliefs require her to follow her husband's directives. They belong to the First Christian Fellowship for Eternal Sovereignty, which has a history of challenging the government

Woman Refused Wine Rams Into Gas Pump

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — A woman upset at being refused the sale of wine at a gas station rammed her car into a pump, setting it ablaze, police said.

Debra Ann Marren, 43, tried to buy some cheap fortified wine, but the Citgo clerk told her he couldn't sell it to her since it was illegal to sell alcohol between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., according to Davie Police.

"She became irate and started screaming at the clerk, but he held his ground," Lt. Bill Bamford said Tuesday.

Marren then jumped in her car, reversed into the pump, and fled with the pump on fire, Bamford said.

Police received another call about a woman arguing with a man, and officers found Marren and a car matching the description of the one at the Citgo station.

No information on what Marren was charged with, or whether she had an attorney was immediately available.

NFL WEEK 14 SCORES

Sunday, December 7, 2003

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Seattle (8-5-0)	0	0	7	0	7
Minnesota (8-5-0) «	0	13	7	14	34

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Chicago (5-8-0)	14	0	0	7	21
Green Bay (7-6-0) «	0	13	6	15	34

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Cincinnati (7-6-0)	3	7	3	0	13
Baltimore (8-5-0) «	7	10	7	7	31

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Oakland (3-10-0)	7	0	0	0	7
Pittsburgh (5-8-0) «	0	17	7	3	27

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Washington (5-8-0) «	3	7	7	3	20
NY Giants (4-9-0)	7	0	0	0	7

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Arizona (3-10-0)	0	0	7	7	14
San Francisco (6-7-0) «	14	20	9	7	50

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Kansas City (11-2-0)	7	14	0	6	27
Denver (8-5-0) «	7	10	14	14	45

Final OT	1	2	3	4	OT	T
Carolina (8-5-0)	0	7	7	0	0	14
Atlanta (3-10-0) «	0	7	0	7	6	20

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Houston (5-8-0)	0	0	0	0	0
Jacksonville (4-9-0) «	7	10	0	10	27

Final	1	2	3	4	T
San Diego (3-10-0) «	7	7	0	0	14
Detroit (4-9-0)	0	0	0	7	7

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Indianapolis (10-3-0) «	3	9	17	0	29
Tennessee (9-4-0)	10	0	3	14	27

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Dallas (8-5-0)	3	7	0	0	10
Philadelphia (10-3-0) «	0	10	9	17	36

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Tampa Bay (6-7-0) «	0	14	0	0	14
New Orleans (6-7-0)	7	0	0	0	7

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Miami (8-5-0)	0	0	0	0	0
New England (11-2-0) «	3	0	0	9	12

Final	1	2	3	4	T
NY Jets (5-8-0)	3	0	3	0	6
Buffalo (6-7-0) «	0	7	7	3	17



<u>Mon</u>				
Dec 08	Partly Cloudy	70°/45°	20 %	
<u>Tue</u>				
Dec 09	Partly Cloudy	66°/41°	0 %	
<u>Wed</u>				
Dec 10	Sunny	67°/39°	0 %	
<u>Thu</u>				
Dec 11	Mostly Sunny	65°/39°	0 %	

Weekly Weather Forecast

<u>Fri</u>			
Dec 12	Mostly Sunny	61°/35°	0 %
<u>Sat</u>			
Dec 13	Partly Cloudy	60°/35°	20 %
<u>Sun</u>			
Dec 14	Rain / Snow Showers	49°/37°	50 %

Courtesy of the weatherchannel.com

Mountain Warrior Weekly is always accepting comments and suggestions as to how we can improve your newspaper. If you have comments or suggestions, or simply just want to be added to our emailing list, email the staff at

Kandaharpresscenter@yahoo.com

R&R from pg. 1

deal of his time traveling to Afghanistan's "hot spots" while escorting embedded civilian reporters, and this break is just what the doctor ordered.

Day 0 is the day of arrival on Camp As Sayliyah Army Base, and soldiers are quick to shrug off dusty desert uniforms for the wrinkled civvies that have been crammed in the bottom of their duffle bags. After changing, the energized soldiers make a mad dash to partake of the forbidden beverage they have so yearned for all those long, hot days in the desert: BEER! Smiles and laughter abound as the sandblasted GIs sip their beers and mix and mingle in a setting they have not enjoyed since leaving home so many months ago. As techno music reverberates off the walls with deafening loudness, soldiers engage in conversation, each regaling their version of the bombs and firefights, patrols and near death experiences they've had.

Even with a three beer per day limit, some soldiers looked as though they had drunk a twelve pack. One soldier, who would not reveal his name, sat back and observed the revelry with amusement. Moments before, he had sold his ration of beer tickets to a fellow soldier for a tidy profit. "I don't drink so I really don't mind helping a brother out. I think this three beer limit is bull anyway," he said. Sgt. Kristina Martinelli from the 303rd AG Postal Co, echoed the same comments. "I wish they didn't have the three beer limit," she said. "It's not like we're going to get in our car and drive off or something."

The next morning the soldiers awoke at their leisure to the sounds of silence. No artillery booming in the distance, no noises of helicopters, or trucks, or rockets impacting close by. Martinelli raved about the simple pleasures of having indoor bath facilities. "It was so nice to be able to use real flush toilets, and tiled showers," she said. "Everything was so nice and clean."

While some soldiers prepared for a day of deep sea fishing and water sports off the base, others grabbed towels and suntan lotion, and headed to the on-base, state-of-the-art, Olympic size pool. Staff Sgt. Mike Johnson from Bradenton, FL, dove into the pool with a splash, then surfaced and shouted in excited tones, "This



Spc. Katherine Collins relaxes at the pool during R&R in Qatar

is the life" at the top of his lungs. He was beaming from ear to ear and behaving like a man discovering water after crossing a desert on foot. Johnson's enthusiasm was contagious as soldiers in various stages of relaxation began to clap and egg him on. Stationed at KAF, he is the NCOIC of the Movement Control Team at the Airflow Terminal.

"Having no responsibility for anything other than to have fun is a wonderful break," said Johnson. Being in this environment makes me feel like I'm back home in Florida."

The R&R program offers a variety of events and amenities to suit most every personality type. The poolside Chili's Restaurant was well received by the soldiers, as were the Subway, the Pizza Express and the Burger King. Add to that the well equipped work-out gym, the video arcade and the pool and ping-pong tables, and virtually no one is left disappointed. Among the most sought after service were the MWR phones and computers for getting in touch with loved ones back home. Topping them all however, was the Day Spa Parlor. Offering manicures, pedicures and body massages, soldiers would line up for appointments to be pampered and treated like royalty. Spc. Katharine Collins from Brimfield, Massachusetts, lounged in one of the Parlor's reclining chairs while being treated to a pedicure. A comely blond with brilliant blue eyes, she giggled as the therapist scrubbed and exfoliated her ticklish feet. Finally able to wear her hair down after four months of duty in the Af-

ghan dust, she savored every moment of her experience in the parlor which also included a full body massage and a manicure. "I really wish R&R was longer," she said. "It needs to be four full days instead of three." Her friend, Spc. Keisha Frith, a native of Jamaica, agreed R&R should be longer. Frith spent some of her sabbatical shopping at the mall and dining at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Doha. "I really enjoyed meeting new people and hearing everyone's stories," she said in her Caribbean accent. "It gave me a small taste of home."

In addition to R&R not being long enough and the three beer limit, some soldiers complained about the difficulty they had in getting off the Army Base. Sgt. Glenn Gilbert of the 303rd Postal Co based in Boston, MA, suggested every group that goes on R&R "ensure they bring a female with them" to facilitate getting off post. He explained that the soldiers stationed on Camp As Sayliyah are much more willing to transport a group off base that has a female in it than one without.

Whether it's playing 18 holes at the Doha Country Club, going swimming in the Persian Gulf, or enjoying a steak dinner at Chili's, R&R offers something for everyone.

Cost of massage, manicure, and pedicure-\$35.00; cost of greens fee at the Doha Golf Club-\$82.00; cost of letting your hair down, putting on civvies, enjoying three days of civilization away from the warfront, and drinking three beers-PRICELESS!